

## MODULAR WEAPON SYSTEM (MWS)



### DESCRIPTION

The Modular Weapon System (MWS) consists of an M16A4 rifle and an M4 carbine version. An M1913 Rail Adapter System (RAS) replaces the upper hand guards and incorporates a removable rear-carrying handle. The RAS provides the capability to mount various accessories, such as a modified M203 launching system, high intensity flashlights, and infrared laser target designators, as well as optics. The MWS M4 carbine variant is selectively fielded to Marines whose billet and/or mission requires the use of the shorter carbine.

### OPERATIONAL IMPACT

The MWS will significantly improve the ability to mount various accessories and will enhance accuracy, target detection, and engagement capabilities in both day and night conditions.

### PROGRAM STATUS

Fielding of the MWS began in fiscal year 2003. An increase in the Approved Acquisition Objective (AAO) due to complete replacement of M16A2 rifles Marine Corps-wide has extended fielding through fiscal year 2010. The AAO is now ~140,100 M16A4 rifles and approximately 60,000 M4 carbines.

Procurement Profile:	FY2008	FY2009
Quantity	25,560	21,116

Developer/Manufacturer:  
M4: Colt Manufacturing Company, Inc.,  
Hartford, CT

M16A4: Fabrique National Military Industries,  
Columbia, SC